

RECEIVED
CENTRAL FAX CENTER

JAN 15 2010

In the Claims:

Kindly amend the claims as follows:

- 1-11. (Canceled) without prejudice.
12. (Currently amended) A method for producing carpet squares with carpet pile and a felt backing, comprising:
- making a semi-finished product with the carpet pile having a pile side and a back side,
 - selecting felt for forming the felt backing having a front side towards the back side of the semi-finished product and a rear side away from the back side;
 - forming a carpet web by coating the back side of the semi-finished product with the front side of the felt,
 - forming an outermost layer of the carpet web away from the pile side by surface coating the rear side of the felt with a layer of curable polymer having a ~~width~~ thickness lesser than a ~~width~~ thickness of the felt layer,
 - curing the layer of curable polymer and providing dimensional stabilization and rigidity to the carpet web before punching, and
 - punching the carpet web into desired shapes and dimensions.
13. (Previously presented) The method of claim 12, wherein the coating the back side of the semi-finished product comprises bonding the front side of the felt back with the back side of the semi-finished product by gluing.
14. (Previously presented) The method of claim 12, wherein the forming comprises forming the outermost layer and the semi-finished product partially or fully with the same material.

15. (Previously presented) The method of claim 14, wherein the forming with the same material comprises forming with polymer.

16. (Previously presented) The method of claim 12, wherein the curable polymer is a thermo-hardening water-based latex.

17. (Previously presented) The method of claim 16, wherein the curable polymer is in a form selected from the group consisting of liquid, crème, powder, and combinations thereof.

18. (Previously presented) The method of claim 12, wherein the surface coating is in a form selected from the group consisting of spraying, foaming, smearing on, and combinations thereof.

19. (Previously presented) The method of claim 12, wherein making the semi-finished product comprises making by methods selected from the group consisting of tufting, weaving, bonding, felting, and combinations thereof.

20. (Previously presented) The method of claim 12, wherein the curing is performed at a temperature between 60°C and 160°C.

21. (Previously presented) The method of claim 20, wherein the curing is performed at about 100°C.

22. (Previously presented) The method of claim 12, wherein the curing is by a method selected from the group consisting of heating, IR irradiation, UV irradiation, and combinations thereof.

23. (Previously presented) The method of claim 12, wherein the selecting felt comprises selecting the felt having a gram weight between 200 and 1500 g/m².

24. (Previously presented) The method of claim 23, wherein the felt has a gram weight over 800 g/m².

25. (Previously presented) The method of claim 12, wherein the costing with the curable polymer comprises coating in an amount between 50 and 500 g dry matter/m².

26. (Previously presented) The method of claim 25, wherein the amount is less than 100 g dry matter/m².

27. (Currently amended) A plant for producing carpet squares with a carpet pile and a felt backing comprising:

- a semi-finished product supply source for supplying a semi-finished product having a pile side and a back side,

- a felt source for supplying the felt backing having a front side and a rear side,

- a coating and carpet web forming unit for receiving the semi-finished product and the felt backing and for coating the back side of the semi-finished product with the front side of the felt backing and forming a carpet web,

- an application unit for forming an outermost layer of the carpet web by surface coating the rear side of the felt backing with a curable polymer layer having a ~~width~~ thickness lesser than a ~~width~~ thickness of the felt layer,

- a curing unit for curing the curable polymer layer for imparting dimensional stabilization and rigidity to the carpet web before punching, and

- a punching unit for punching the carpet web into desired shapes and dimensions, wherein the application unit and the curing unit are disposed between the coating and carpet web forming unit and the punching unit.

28. (Previously presented) The plant of claim 27, wherein the coating and carpet web forming unit includes a storage and unwinding unit for receiving pre-formed and coiled semi-finished product, and a coiling unit for coiling the formed carpet web.

29. (Previously presented) The plant of claim 27, wherein the application unit, the curing unit and the punching unit are an independent part of the plant.

30. (Currently amended) A carpet square punched out from a carpet web comprising a carpet web having first and second parts, the first part comprising a pre-formed semi-finished product having a pile side and a back side, the second part comprising a felt backing having a front side and a rear side, the felt backing forming a coating on the back side of the first part and further comprising a surface coating of a cured polymer having a ~~width~~ thickness lesser than a ~~width~~ thickness of the felt layer on the rear side forming the outermost layer of the carpet web imparting dimensional stabilization and rigidity to the carpet square.

31. (Previously presented) The carpet square of claim 30, wherein the felt backing comprises felt having a gram weight between 200 and 1500 g/m².

32. (Previously presented) The carpet square of claim 32, wherein the gram weight is more than 800 g/m².

33. (Previously presented) The carpet square of claim 30, wherein the surface coating on the felt backing is in an amount of between 50 and 500 g dry matter/m².

34. (Previously presented) The carpet square of claim 34, wherein the amount is less than 100 g dry matter/m².

35. (Currently amended) A carpet square forming plant for producing carpet squares with a carpet pile and a felt backing comprising:

- a semi-finished product supply source for supplying a semi-finished product having a pile side and a back side,

- a felt source for supplying the felt backing having a front side and a rear side,

-a coating and carpet web forming unit for receiving the semi-finished product and the felt backing and for coating the back side of the semi-finished product with the front side of the felt backing and forming a carpet web and supplying the carpet web with the rear side of the felt backing facing upwards,

-an application unit for forming an outermost layer of the carpet web by surface coating the rear side of the felt backing with a curable polymer layer having a ~~width~~ thickness lesser than a ~~width~~ thickness of the felt layer,

-a curing unit for curing the curable polymer layer for imparting dimensional stabilization and rigidity to the carpet web before punching and supplying the cured carpet web through a soft curve with the carpet pile facing upwards, and

-a punching unit for receiving the cured carpet web and punching the carpet web into desired shapes and dimensions, wherein the application unit and the curing unit are disposed between the coating and carpet web forming unit and the punching unit.